INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP20.04/016456 CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int.Cl7 F16G5/18 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl⁷ F16G5/18, F16G13/06 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched 1922-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Koho Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2005 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2005 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2005 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. JP 8-312725 A (Gear Chain Industrial B.V.), 1,2,9 A 26 November, 1996 (26.11.96), 3-8 Claims 1, 4; Figs. 3 to 5 & US 5728021 A & EP 741255 A1 & DE 69600141 C & NL 1000294 C 1,2,9 JP 5-22666 Y2 (Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.), Y A 10 June, 1993 (10.06.93), 3-6 Full text; Fig. 1 (Family: none) Y JP 2624548 B2 (Aisin AW Co., Ltd.), 2 25 June, 1997 (25.06.97), 6 Column 5; Fig. 1 (Family: none) Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex. Special categories of cited documents: later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance earlier application or patent but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive filing date step when the document is taken alone 9 document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than "&" document member of the same patent family the priority date claimed Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 15 March, 2005 (15.03.05) 01 March, 2005 (01.03.05) Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office Telephone No.